

Attorney's Docket No. 06618-505001
Appl. No. 09/491,353
Supplemental Amdt. dated August 28, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of performing finite element analysis on a shell including:
- (a) modeling a geometry of the shell using subdivision surfaces of a type formed by recursively subdividing a mesh to form a smoothed surface;
- (b) characterizing an environment for the shell, including environmental factors affecting the mechanical behavior of a modeled shell;
- (c) computing a mechanical response of the modeled shell, taking into account a characterized environment, using a finite element analysis to ~~form weights for~~ compute a deformed geometry of the final surface; and
- (d) outputting a description of the deformed geometry of the modeled shell as determined from the computed mechanical response.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the environment factors includes loading conditions, material properties, and boundary conditions for the modeled shell.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the loading conditions includes an indication of applied forces.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the loading conditions includes an indication of thermal loading.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including outputting indications of the characterized environment.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the finite element analysis uses subdivision basis functions as shape functions.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the finite element analysis uses suitably smooth shape functions.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system for performing finite element analysis on a shell including:

(a) means for modeling the geometry of the shell using subdivision surfaces which are formed by recursively subdividing a mesh to form smoothed surface description;

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- (b) means for characterizing an environment for the shell, including environmental factors affecting the mechanical behavior of the modeled shell;
- (c) means for computing the mechanical response of the modeled shell, taking into account the characterized environment, using a finite element analysis; and
- (d) means for outputting a description of the geometry of the modeled shell as determined from the computed mechanical response.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the environment factors includes loading conditions, material properties, and boundary conditions for the modeled shell.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the loading conditions includes an indication of applied forces.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the loading conditions includes an indication of thermal loading.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9, further including means for outputting indications of the characterized environment.

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14. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the finite element analysis uses subdivision basis functions as shape functions.

15. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the finite element analysis uses suitably smooth shape functions.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for performing finite element analysis using subdivision basis functions, including:

(a) means for inputting a mesh comprising a set of data points each having connectivity to neighboring data points, the mesh defining physical parameters;

(b) means for specifying an initial state for the mesh;

(c) means for defining a set of linear differential equations comprising a stiffness matrix and an external forcing vector, at least one such equation having a fourth order differential operator;

(d) means for solving the set of linear equations as applied to the mesh;

(e) means for outputting the solution to the set of linear equations as defining a modification of the initial state of the mesh based on the stiffness matrix and in response to the

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external forcing vector based on subdivision surfaces which are recursively formed from an initial mesh and which produce a smoothed surface description.

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17. (Currently Amended) A computer program, residing on a computer-readable medium, for performing finite element analysis on a shell, the computer program comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

- (a) model the geometry of the shell using subdivision surfaces by recursively subdividing subdivision surfaces a mesh to form a final smoothed surface;
- (b) characterize an environment for the shell, including environmental factors affecting the mechanical behavior of the modeled shell;
- (c) compute the mechanical response of the modeled shell, taking into account the characterized environment, using a finite element analysis; and
- (d) output a description of the geometry of the modeled shell as determined from the computed mechanical response.

18. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein the environment factors includes loading conditions, material properties, and boundary conditions for the modeled shell.

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19. (Original) The computer program of claim 18, wherein
the loading conditions includes an indication of applied forces.

20. (Original) The computer program of claim 18, wherein
the loading conditions includes an indication of thermal
loading.

21. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, further
including instructions for causing the computer to output
indications of the characterized environment.
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22. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein
the finite element analysis uses subdivision basis functions as
shape functions.

23. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein
the finite element analysis uses suitably smooth shape
functions.

24. (Canceled)

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25. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein
said modeling comprises ~~intuitively subdividing each surface and~~
repeatedly refining the mesh until a surface with higher
than C^1 C^0 smoothness is obtained.

26. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
first, including a control mesh indicative of a surface to
be modeled;

~~intuitively recursively subdividing said control mesh to
form a subdivision smooth surface in which each refined mesh is
based iteratively on the previous coarse mesh and which has
vertices nodes which are based on the positions of the nodes
vertices of in the 1-neighborhood in the previous coarse mesh;~~
and

~~continuing said iteratively recursively subdividing
said mesh until a surface which has specified smoothness is
obtained.~~